

THE  
Copie of a Letter

sent to Monsieur de Beau-  
voir Lord Embassador for  
the French king. *Henry IV.*

vvherin is shewed the late attempt  
of a Iesuite who would haue killed  
the kings Maiestie with  
a knife.



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THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

AND

1679



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The Copie of a letter sent to Mon-  
sieur Beauvoir Lord Embassador for  
the French King.

**M** Lord, these are to glue you know-  
ledge, of a sudden and unhappie ac-  
cident, which had like to haue salne  
vpon the king, had it not pleased  
God of his great mercie, miracu-  
lously to preserue his Maiesty from  
it. Your honour shall then under-  
stand, that his Maiesty within litle  
more then an houre after his retorne into the cittie of Pa-  
ris, from out of Picardie, being as yet booted, and hauing a-  
bout him the Lords and Princes of Conty, the Carles of  
Soissons, and Saint Paule, and aboue thirty or forty of the  
chiefe Noblemen, and gentlemen of his court, as his Ma-  
iesty was busie in receauing the Lords of Ragny, and Mon-  
tigny, which had not before that time done their dutie, and  
allegiance to him, it happened a yong fellowe, of verie  
smal stature, and not aboue eightene, or nineteene yeares  
of age, called Peter Chastel, the sonne of a Merchant draper  
in this cittie, followed in amongst the prease, into the cham-  
ber, where the king himselfe was, and thrusting forwarde  
as neere to the person of the kinge as hee coulde, (with-  
out being noted or suspected of any there present) he strake  
at the king with a knife, which he had brought to that pur-  
pose, thinking to haue thrust him into the belly. But so it  
fell out through the mightie prouidence of God, that the  
king in that verie instant, bowing himselfe forwarde, to  
take vp the saide lordes of Ragny, and Montagny, (which  
kneled before him) the stroke lighted vpon his face. on the  
vpper lip toward the right side, and brake one of his teeth,  
without doing any further harme. The wretched captife  
was presently layed hold on, and denying the fact a while

at the first, afterwards he voluntarily confessed it. Wee  
can as yet get nothing out of him, but that hee hath bene  
brought vp for the space of this thre years in the Colledge  
of the Iesuites, in which place we suppose hee receaued in-  
structions, to practise this treason. The first thing his Ma-  
iesty thought vpon was to giue god thanks for his special  
grace, & fauour at this time, in perseruing him from this  
traiterous attempt, and caused a publike thanksgiving to  
be song generally throughout the whole cittie, and the citi-  
zens besides made bonfires in euerie stréete. for toy of the  
kings deliuerance out of so great a danger. Thanks be to  
God, the hurte is so small, that the kinge shall not neede to  
keepe his bed for it: and we hope he shall be able to hold on  
with his determination, for the which hee hastened his re-  
turne to Paris, which is to solemnize the feast and ceremo-  
nie of the order of the Holyghost. I thought it best to aduer-  
tise your honoz hereof without any further delaie, for feare  
least being pzenented by others, not knowing the truth and  
certaintie of the matter, you and other the kings friends  
and wellwillers, should thereby haue cause to be inwardly  
gréued. His maiesties chiefe desire is, that you cause a  
publike thanksgiving to be offered vp to God for it, with  
earnest praiers that it would please his diuine maiestie, al-  
waies to keepe him vnder his mercifull protection, against  
such bloudie and butcherlie practises, to which his enimies  
hauing so often recourse, make manifest prooue to the world  
of their malicious intents, and finding that God hath gi-  
uen them ouer to themselves, they giue themselves ouer  
to these most damnable and accursed conspiracies, which  
God I hope will bringe to confusion, both them and those  
that are the authors and deuissers of them. From Paris the  
27. of December, 1594. after their accompt.



*The Copy of the same Letter  
in French.*



Vous aurez icy la nouvelle d'un malheureux  
accident qui a pensé arriuer au Roy, et  
comme il a pleu a Dieu par sa misericorde  
miraculeusement l'en preseruer Il ny auoit  
pas plus d'une heure que sa Maiesté estoit arriuée en  
ceste ville de retour de son voyage de Picardie, et e-  
stait encore toute bottée, Qu'ayant autour d'elle  
Messieurs les Princes de Conty, Comte de Soissons  
et Comte de S. Paul, et plus de 30. ou 40. des prin-  
cipaux Seigneurs et Gentilzhommes de ceste court,  
comme elle receuoit les seigneurs de Ragny & de  
Montigny qui ne l'auoyent point encore saluez vn  
leune garson nommé Pierre Chastel fort petit et  
qui ne peut auoir que dixhuiet ou dix neuf ans, fils  
d'un marchand Drapier de ceste ville lequel s'estoit  
glissé avec la troupe dans la chambre s'aduance  
sans estre quasi aperceu de personne, et pensant luy  
donner d'un cousteau qu'il auoit dans le corps, le  
coup (par ce que sa Maiesté s'estoit baissée pour re-  
leuer les susdits sieurs de Montigny et de Ragny qui  
la saluoyent) ne porta que dans la face sur la leure  
haute du costé droiet, & l'a entamée, et couppée vne  
dent. A l'instant ce miserable a esté prins, & apres a-  
uoir voulu vn peu desaduouer le fait incontinent a-  
pres il l'a confessé sans aucune force il ne s'est enco-  
re rien peu tirer de luy sinon qu'il a esté nourry trois  
ans aux Colleges des Iesuites, ou l'on presume qu'il  
a receu ceste instruction Ce dont sa Maiesté s'est vou-  
leu: premierement souuenir a esté de rendre graces  
a dieu de ceste particulieire grace, qu'il luy a faite de

legarentir de cest assassinat, & en à esté à l'instant  
chanté vn Te Deum en toutes les eglises de ceste vil  
le; à quoy les habitans ont adiousté des feux de ioye  
par toutes les rues. Il y à (dieu mercy) si peu de mal,  
que pour cela sa Maiesté, ne s'en mettra pas au liét  
de meilleuré heure, et esperons, qu'elle ne perdra  
point la bonne occasion, pour laquelle elle à auancé  
son retour, qui est, pour faire la feste, & ceremonie de  
l'ordre du saint Esprit. Ie n'ay voulu tarder d'auan  
tage a vous donner cest aduis, affin que vous, & les  
autres seruiteurs de sa Maiesté estans preuenus de  
quelque autre, n'en soiez en peine. Mais sa Maiesté  
desire principalement que vous en faciez rendre gra  
ces publiques a dieu, & bonnes prieres, qu'il luy plaise  
la conseruer tousiours en sa sainte protection con  
tre tels assassinats, ausquels puis que les ennemis re  
courent si souuent c'est bien vne preuue manifeste  
de leur malheureuse intention, & comme se sentans  
abandonnez de Dieu, ils s'abandonnent aux resoluti  
ons les plus execrables, que i'espere, qu'il confondra  
tousiours a leur ruine, & confusion. A Paris 27. De  
cemb. 1594.





